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REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ITEM IN THE PROVISIONAL
AGENDA OF THE FORTY-NINTH SESSION

COMMEMORATION OF THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END
OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Letter dated 30 June 1994 from the Permanent Representative
of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General

On instructions from the Government of the Russian Federation, I have the honour to request you to include in the agenda of the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly, in accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an additional item entitled "Commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War", with its subsequent consideration directly in a plenary meeting of the General Assembly.

An explanatory memorandum has been annexed to this letter, in accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Y. VORONTSOV

Annex

Explanatory memorandum

The Russian Federation proposes the inclusion of an additional item, "Commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War", in the agenda of the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

In making this proposal, the Russian Federation, as the successor of the State that bore the main brunt of the Second World War, calls upon all States Members of the United Nations to observe broadly and solemnly the fiftieth anniversary of the victory over fascism and, in memory of the millions of people who perished in the flames of the Second World War, proposes the proclamation of 1995 as the "World Year of Remembrance by Peoples of the Victims of the Second World War".

The defeat of fascism marked a great victory by the forces of good over the forces of evil. It was achieved at a heavy cost. Mankind suffered irreplaceable losses: more than 50 million lives, hundreds of thousands of populated areas obliterated from the face of the earth and hundreds of millions of people left homeless and without means of subsistence.

One of the main lessons of the great victory achieved through the joint efforts of peoples of different countries is that united, concerted and energetic action on the part of all peace-loving forces and the prevention and settlement of disputes that arise by exclusively peaceful means are necessary in order to preserve and maintain international peace and security. This is particularly important at the present time when there is still the probability of armed confrontation between States, blood continues to be shed in civil, inter-ethnic and local conflicts, and the danger of the spread of weapons of mass destruction is increasing.

The Russian Federation believes that the States Members of the United Nations must make every possible effort to put an end to current armed conflicts and prevent the emergence of such conflicts in the future. Broad international cooperation in solving problems of an economic and social nature and promotion of and respect for human rights and freedoms are also essential aspects of maintaining stable and lasting peace.

In the general interests of mankind, actively promoting the enhancement of the role and effectiveness of the United Nations - as the central component in the system of collective security - is in implementation of the lofty goal proclaimed in its Charter of saving succeeding generations from the scourge of war.

Consideration of this agenda item could result in the adoption by the General Assembly of a corresponding resolution and a special declaration in connection with this important date.
